

# The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

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THE CONCORD FARMERS CLUB AND THOREAU'S  
"SUCCESSION OF FOREST TREES" by Louisa Kussin

## Introduction -

The extract below has been taken from the Records of the Concord Farmers Club for the year 1859-1860. It is the "minutes" of a discussion which followed an essay on "Forest Trees" read to the Club on April 12, 1860 by Charles L. Heywood. Five months and eight days after this date Henry D. Thoreau delivered his address, "The Succession of Forest Trees", at the annual Fair of the Middlesex Agricultural Society in Concord. Since so many of the Farmers Club's questions are answered in Thoreau's lecture, it seems obvious there is a relation between the two. The Concord Farmers Club was one of several local groups in Middlesex County during the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup> It met weekly during the winter season - from early November through April. At each meeting an essay on an agricultural subject was read by one of the members and a discussion of the subject followed, led off by four "leaders". The leaders of the discussion on the evening of April 12 were: Jacob B. Farmer, Joseph D. Brown, John F. Wood, and Joshua Warren Brown. It is mainly the remarks of these men - and of the speaker - which were recorded. (Unfortunately, the Secretary was not required to list the names of everyone present at these meetings - although a few years later he was required to do so.)

The first meeting in the Club's season was usually a business meeting. Officers were elected for the incoming year, and a committee was appointed to assist the President in selecting the subjects to be discussed and in assigning speakers to them. For the 1859-60 season the officers were: Nathan Henry Warren, President; A.H. Wheeler, Vice President; Elijah Wood, Jr., Treasurer; and Dr. Joseph Reynolds, Secretary. Two of these men were serving also as officials for the Middlesex Agricultural Society: Joseph Reynolds was Secretary of the Society, and Elijah Wood was a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees, representing the Town of Concord. The officers of the Club were also its 1859-60 speech committee (although this was not the usual course of events).

As for Charles L. Heywood, the speaker at the April 12, 1860 meeting, he is reported to have been a member of the family which owned four pieces of property in the environs of Walden Pond - one of them being "Heywood's Meadow" (site of the affair of the mud-turtle and the pout) on the WSW side of Walden close to the Lincoln line, and another being a woodlot on the ESE corner bordering directly on the Pond. By profession, Mr. Heywood was a "railroad man", and is further reputed to have been an "influential" one in his company.<sup>2</sup> His nomination in November of 1858 coincided with a time when the local farmers were trying to obtain lower rates for

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Frederick Wagner, President; Mary Anderson, Treasurer; and Walter Harding, Secretary. Address communications to the Secretary at State University College, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. Dues, \$10 a year; Friend, \$15 Family, \$25; and Life Membership, \$500. Dues should be sent to The Thoreau Society, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742, where the society maintains The Thoreau Lyceum

their daily milk shipments into the city. More than ten years after this April 1860 evening, Minot Pratt wrote the following:

"The chestnut trees of Concord do not at present appear to have a fair opportunity to show what they can do if left to old age. The railroad call for sleepers has had the singular effect of waking up the owners of woodlots to search for all that are of sufficient size, and the axe lieth at the root of those which have not already fallen. The fruit of these would be valuable if they could be left until large size, and the boys would understand that the owner as properly owns the fruit of his chestnut grove as of his apple orchard . . ." (March 6, 1873, CFC Records)

Since it is likely that the conditions which caused Minot to write as he did in 1873 were not so different from what they had been a decade or so earlier, it seems possible to probable that Charles Heywood asked permission to address the members of the Club on the subject of Forest Trees at this final meeting of their 1859-60 season.<sup>3</sup>

Should future research prove this to have been the case, it was not to be the only occasion during this period in its history when the Farmers Club accommodated a distinguished non-agricultural member. The following year, an additional meeting was called at the end of the official season in order that the Superintendent of Schools, Bronson Alcott, might read an essay - which he called "The Garden".

Mr. Heywood remained in the Club one more year after his talk to the farmers. But he did not read another essay, and after the 1860-61 season his name no longer appears on the membership lists in the Club Records.

In its eight years of existence prior to April 12, 1860, the Concord Farmers Club had never accorded an evening to the discussion of Forest Trees (or Woodlands). Trees had been discussed from the standpoint of fruit-bearers or in relation to their ornamental and protective characteristics (as in plantings around homes, or cultivated fields or pastures to protect crops or livestock from excessive weather conditions). In the decade following Mr. Heywood's essay, however, sessions on Forest Trees were scheduled nearly every year, or at the least, every other year.<sup>4</sup>

Twenty-one essays were written and read before the Farmers Club during the 1859 season. Thirteen were copied in the Record book (as was the custom); two others were printed later in the New England Farmer; and another may have retained by its author

to be used as a draft for a committee report which appeared in the 1860 Transactions of the Middlesex Agricultural Society. Of the five essays which remain missing, one - of course - is Charles L. Heywood's piece on "Forest Trees".

The Minutes -

April 12 (1860). Club met at the home of C.L. Heywood.

Voted to have the supper on the 19th unless something important should prevent, in which case each member will be notified of the time.

An Essay on Forest Trees was read by Mr. Heywood (Charles L.)

J.B. Farmer (Jacob B.) said we need more light on the subject. We need more accurate knowledge of trees. We can hardly describe a tree were we to order it from abroad. He has recently examined several species of pines. The Scotch pine has two leaves in each sheath. The Pitch pine 3. The White five. The Norwegian he thinks 4.

There are several kinds of oak, all of which differ in the shape of their berries. We have three kinds of maple, the Sugar, the White and the red. He thinks each tree feeds on different elements in the soil. We find a succession of different trees grow on the same soil. If we cut off pines, oaks will come up. If we cut off oaks, pines will follow on some soils, oaks will come up after oaks. Such soils have some mineral element that suits the oak. When this is exhausted, another kind will come. The White pine, the Chestnut, and the birch grow so fast, that they are the most profitable trees to raise. The larch grows in low grounds.

J.D. Brown (Joseph D.) said he had but little accurate knowledge about trees. On a piece of land he owns, there had been three successive crops of oaks. Pine is followed by oak, but oak land will bring up oaks. He does not think much of pruning forest trees. Thinning will not benefit those which remain. On suitable land it would be advisable to set forest trees, but not on tillage land.

Mr. Heywood asked when he would cut wood if he wished the sprouts to grow. He replied, In the winter. He has cut only in the winter. Land that he cut in winter has come up, and produced 25 cords per acre in 25 years.

Mr. Warren (Nathan Henry) said he had noticed the difference in sprouts, when the wood was cut in November, and in March. When cut in March there would be 5 times as many sprouts. Mr. Jones (Hiram W.) had cut in June, and there were scarcely any sprouts.

The Pres. (Nathan Henry Warren) thinks that trees cut in summer do not generally start much.

Mr. Jones has cut Alders in August, not one in a hundred started.

John F. Wood did not think there was much land in Concord which could be profitably set out with forest trees, except for shade. Sprouts are apt to grow too thick. If only one or two were left to grow, they might grow larger. The sprouts might be cut when large enough for hoop poles. This would pay - and the benefit to those left, would pay for the labor. As many as 8 or 10 Chestnut sprouts start from a stump. All but 2 or three die. It has been said that roots will run as far as the height of the trees. Some conversation ensued about the age of trees.

J.W. Brown (Joshua Warren) does not think it would pay to set out trees. In the rocky pastures, they grow fast enough, if left alone. He has mowed

brush many years in succession but they continued to grow. In one such lot, a good crop is now growing. It is best to cut off the wood when the trees are three or four inches through. Then they would come up evenly.

C.L. Heywood said if you keep such land, say 10 acres for pasture, and mow the brush, and another 10 acres grow to wood, which will be the most profitable. In 30 years you will have 25 cords of wood to the acre, worth \$3 per cord standing. The pasture will not be worth more than enough to pay for mowing the brush.

Mr. Brown on sandy land would let pitch pines grow. J.B. Brown (James B.) asked if pitch pine was the best answer. It was the best wood. C.L. Heywood said a tree standing alone will yield much seed. But the land will be some years in getting seeded. It was better to plant it all at one time, which might be done for \$6 per acre. Then it would grow even.

E. Wood Jr. (Elijah) thinks there are more acres growing to wood in Concord than there were 80 years ago.

J. B. Farmer thinks there are twice as many acres grown or growing to wood than there were 40 years ago.

E. Wood's grandfather had seen 40 acres of rye growing where there are now board logs.

Mr. Heywood had been buying wood for 12 years. Wood would be no higher. There are more acres growing by one 4th than 10 years ago.

We now burn coal. Have fuel saving stoves. 12 years ago, fuel was 50 cents higher than now. He has purchased wood in Boston for \$3.25 the past year. On the Peterboro road for \$3.12. On the Main road \$4. Last year cheaper than ever. If there were 2 or 3 pencil factories in town, it would pay to raise pines. Where shall the manufacturers go to get timber. Sapling pines are more than hard wood. In Townsend pine was worth \$4 per cord. One cord and a half will grow per acre in a year, on land worth \$5. Poor land will grow pines rapidly. It will grow hard wood 2 or 3 inches thick. When it stops growing the land cannot carry it further. Poor land worth \$5 net(s) more than our lands worth \$15 or (\$20).

E. Wood referred to a piece of land on which the owner gave away the wood for cutting. It was plowed and planted to potatoes. Brush was mowed. It yielded but little pasture. It was then left to grow up to wood, and is now worth \$100 per acre.

The President spoke of a lot in Weymouth which a friend of his purchased for pasture. There were some pines on it. They were left standing. This was 50 years ago. His friend has been offered \$400 per acre.

A.H. Wheeler (Abiel H.) said the frost killed the young oaks in the valleys on Fairhaven Hill. Mr. Heywood said stock the land with pines, and then set oaks. The pines will protect them from frost. When the oaks are large enough to endure the frost, cut the pines. They will pay well for cutting. Chestnuts and some other trees will do as well as pines to protect the young oaks.

Adjourned. This is the last meeting for the season. The meetings have been well attended, and the interest sustained through the winter as well or better than in any previous year. The discussions have been animated, and many able essays have been read. Several new members have joined the Club.

Joseph Reynolds, Secretary



## Notes -

1. The purpose of these local groups was primarily "educational". By pooling their ideas and their experience, the members of the Clubs sought to establish more scientific methods in the practice of their vocation. Frequently these men were among the most enlightened farmers in their communities, and the Concord Club, during the '60s and '70s, included some very talented people. It might be stated that, on the whole, the smaller groups were more effective in disseminating a genuine knowledge of agriculture than the larger county societies which preceded them in formation.

2. This assessment of Mr. Heywood's professional status is confirmed by a news item about the annual dinner held by the Club, which appeared in the June, 1860 issue of the New England Farmer. The name of C.L. Heywood is printed among the names of notables who rose at the end of the meal to deliver "a few remarks" to the guests. I am indebted to Marcia Moss and Thomas Blanding for this information.

3. The subject of "Forest Trees" was on the original program as scheduled by the speech committee at the beginning of the season. That is, it was not a last-minute addition to the schedule, nor a substitute for another subject, as sometimes happened.

4. Should the question arise as to whether a lecture on "Forest Trees" would have been scheduled had not Heywood desired to address the Club, it is the opinion of this writer that it would have been, for the reason that conditions with respect to harvestable wood throughout the county and the state at this time were such that consideration of the subject by the farmers had become mandatory. It is also the opinion of this writer that neither Mr. Heywood's possible desire for lumber for his railroad, nor the ignorance of both Heywood and the farmers about trees were strong enough reasons to compel the Society to requisition a "Succession of Forest Trees" from Henry D. Thoreau unless these other "conditions" had been in existence.

REFLECTIONS IN A STREETLIGHT  
by Stephen A. Kenney

Editor's note: In 1984 Stephen A. Kenney of Kenmore, New York, a graduate student in English at SUNY Buffalo who is doing his dissertation on Thoreau, planted wildflowers on his front lawn and upon complaint of some of his neighbors, was found guilty of "creating a public hazard." When he refused to cut them down, a judge imposed a fine of fifty dollars a day. The case is on appeal.]

One evening early last fall, as I was walking down the tree-lined suburban street on which I live, I could hear up ahead an odd high-pitched noise, one I could not immediately identify. The evening was rather late, the traffic had died down, and only the low grumbling of distant trucks, factories, and city streets was audible, serving as a contrasting background to those sharp sounds and making them seem foreign, somehow out of place. As I neared my front yard, I realized the strange tones were issuing from there; and I smiled to myself in the streetlit semi-darkness, recognizing the cheerful singing of a choir of crickets. For the first time, it dawned on me that, save for the occasional forlorn chirrup of a solitary individual, I rarely ever hear crickets anymore. I stood stock still for a few moments and let my ears drink in

the music that had seemed eternal in my rural childhood. I closed my eyes and imagined that these insects were celebrating this small oasis of tangled grasses and wildflowers, and praising the Great Mystery which had so bountifully provided for them. The knotty tension in my muscles -- put there by months of chaotic disruption in my life: the recently lost court battle, the swirling media circus, the wrenching Kafkaesque scenes -- began to loosen, and I felt, if only for a fleeting instant, that it had all been worth it; the crickets at least, understood.

Moments such as that are, unfortunately, all too rare for me these days, and with the appeal trial scheduled for June, I see even fewer of them in the near future. The absolute irony is that I originally moved to this neighborhood because I knew that my decision to go back to school required I find a more peaceful setting than the very distracting urban one in which I was then living. Although, I certainly would've preferred a rural residence, money, distance, and availability made this suburban one a happy medium; or so I had hoped. The understanding landlords gave me carte blanche to make myself entirely at home; the neighbors, as I've come to learn only too well, want me to make my home elsewhere. What very few of them seem to understand is that I'm not fighting so much simply for my own home as I am for everyone's -- including the crickets', for if they can't survive, we certainly won't either. The astounding lack of progress in understanding this very simple fact does not bode well for our survival; sadly though, this has been said so many times before and so many times has gone unheeded.

As a fellow "student and admirer of Henry David Thoreau," I share with you a desire to point out the relevance, the necessity, of understanding the wisdom of his work and of seeing our world through his eyes. As we have all seen, however, too often Thoreau is reduced to a bumper-sticker aphorism, made incomprehensible by esoteric criticism, or given semi-divine status by ardent devotees. Perhaps one of the most disappointing things about my "celebrated lawn trial" is the way I'm depicted as some sort of side-show oddity, an overzealous "disciple of Thoreau's." They seem to say, "isn't this all very quaint. Now back to the serious news." (Although I do admit I was pleased with the sober treatment Dan Rather gave the story, complete with an appropriate quotation from "Civil Disobedience.") Nevertheless, for now, I think we should at least feel some satisfaction at having Thoreau's name mentioned at all.

One of the major reasons I went to graduate school was my deep longing to immerse myself in a systematic study of Thoreau's works and to figure out a way to make his thoughts more accessible and more meaningful to an audience much larger than the small group of us already concerned. I was looking for something important to say about his life's work, something that would crystalize his philosophy and make it pertinent to everyone's life. If people would not recognize the clarion of Chanticleer, I wanted to build a clanging alarm clock. To be honest, though, when I scattered the first handful of wildflower seeds in my front yard, I was not thinking of Thoreau; I was merely responding to my own environmental impulse. Yet I quickly discovered that planting my flowers and standing firmly by my right to do so in the face

of legal threats by "the desperate party" was itself a profound study of Thoreau; although unintentional, my experience has, I believe, offered a depth to my appreciation of his words that no amount of time in the library could have. And this summer, when I can once again listen to the chorus of crickets surrounded by silent lawns, I'll know that, at least for me, dawn is only hours away.

#### ECONOMY

BY Michael Meyer

The Thoreau Society needs financial assistance. Since 1983 the Society has found it necessary to draw upon funds from its modest endowment in order to meet its operating expenses. Twenty-eight dollars and twelve and one half cents simply doesn't go as far as it once did. The Society's activities are thriving but so are its costs. Several steps have been taken to avoid future deficits, including a new membership drive, an increased fee for lyceum admissions, and reduced costs for printing the BULLETIN and THE CONCORD SAUNTERER. In addition, the Society has established a Development Committee that will seek grants and donations.

All members of the society are urged to think creatively about how we can raise money from corporations or other organizations that might be willing to help support various Lyceum, publications, and archives programs. If you have any ideas, leads, or contacts concerning potential contributors, please describe them and inform Robert Galvin (chairperson of the new Development Committee: % Gage, Tucker & vom Baur, One Boston Place, Boston, Mass. 02108). And of course, individual amounts (perhaps supplemented by corporate employers who have matching programs) are as welcomed as they are sorely needed. Checks should be made payable to the Thoreau Society, 156 Belknap Street, Concord, Mass. 01742. Whatever help you can provide will be richly appreciated.

#### THOREAU SOCIETY COMMITTEES

President Frederick Wagner announces the appointment of the following committees of the society for 1985-1986. The president is ex officio a member of each committee. Other ex officio members are marked with an asterisk:

ARCHIVES: Thomas Blanding, Malcolm Ferguson (vice chairperson), Dana McLean Greeley (chairperson), Walter Harding, Anne R. McGrath\*, Michael Meyer, Marcia Moss\*, Edmund Schofield, Jacqueline Tidman.

DEVELOPMENT: Mary Anderson\*, Raymond R. Borst, John Clymer\*, Robert Galvin (chairperson), Walter Harding\*, Barbara Winstanley, Barbara Wojtusik, Ann H. Zwinger.

EXECUTIVE: Mary Anderson\*, John Clymer (chairperson), Dana McLean Greeley, Walter Harding\*, Laurie Ledeen, Joel Myerson, Marian Wheeler, Robert Galvin, chairperson of Lyceum Committee.

FINANCE: Mary Anderson\* (chairperson), John Clymer\*, Mary McClintock, Eric Parkman Smith.

LYCEUM: chair and members now being selected.

PROGRAM: Lillian Files, Persis Green, Linda Henning, Patience MacPherson, Lucille Needham, Marilyn Nicolson, Joan Nolan, Eugene Walker, Mary Walker, Marian Wheeler (chairperson), Lawrence Whipple.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Margaret Brace, Lillian Files, Laurie Ledeen (Chairperson), Patience MacPherson.

PUBLICATIONS: Thomas Blanding\*, Malcolm Ferguson, Walter Harding\*, Linck Johnson, John McAleer, Anne R. McGrath, Joel Myerson (chairperson).

#### THE ANNUAL MLA SESSION

The Thoreau Society will, as usual, sponsor a winter meeting at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association, to be held this year in Chicago just after Christmas. It will feature papers on "Teaching Walden" by Linck Johnson, Richard Lebeaux, Robert Richardson, and Timothy Trask, and chaired by Michael Meyer and Joel Myerson. Date and place will be announced in the catalog of the convention.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY...WH

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- Teele, John W., ed. THE MEETING HOUSE ON THE GREEN: A HISTORY OF THE FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD AND ITS CHURCH. Concord: First Parish, 1985: 361pp. Many mentions of Thoreau and his family.
- Thoreau, Henry D. CAPE COD. Boston: Little, Brown & New York Graphic Society, 1985. 230pp. \$35. A huge, new coffee-table size edition beautifully illustrated with photographs, maps, and drawings that almost, as the editor William F. Robinson hoped, gives the impression that Thoreau could have made them himself to illustrate his text. Robinson has dug up many wonderful photographs, particularly those of a Henry K. Cummings, added some of his own, along with the drawings of Amelia Watson and Winslow Homer to make a really superb book. Our only quarrel is that a few (not many) of the photographs are not quite as clear as they might be. Robinson adds a table of directions for hiking on the Cape today where there has been little or no change since Thoreau's day. (He does note however that one of the major changes is the return of the pine forests to the dunes.) This is an edition you will treasure and enjoy.
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We are indebted to the following for information sent in for the bulletin: R.Borst, R.Chapman, A.Christianson, R.Dupree, M.Fenn, M. Grant, V.Halbert, W.Glick, H.Kiczka, V.Lottis, M.Meerifield, J.Michel, R.Michelfelder, G.Montiero, M.Neussendorfer, R.Poland, C.Roof, G. Ryan, H.Schon, E.Shaw, R.Thompson, F.Ziegler and J.Zuithoff. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new items as they appear.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE AUTHORITATIVE TEXT OF "LIFE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE"

by Bradley P. Dean

The authoritative text of Thoreau's essay "Life without Principle" appears in Reform Papers, ed. Wendell Glick (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1973), pp. 155-179. Recently, while generating reconstructions of the early "Life without Principle" lectures, I was obliged to work with this text in quite some detail, and I noticed three rather insignificant errors in the essay text and located the sources of two quotations used by Thoreau but which the editorial staff had been unable to locate prior to publication. This text of the essay will be standard for many years to come, and since scholars will want the most accurate text possible, I present findings below. With the exception of my reference to the essay text in Reform Papers as "RP," the format and abbreviations employed in the additions below are the same as those employed in the textual apparatus to the essay (Reform Papers, pp. 374-377).

#### Errors in the essay text:

- 164.31-32 where-/ever) should read where-/ever  
166.13 'guacas') should read "Guacas"  
177.36 Message,) should read Message.

#### Additions to "Textual Notes" (pp. 374-375):

- 161.15-17 "Greatness: Thoreau's source for quotation is The Hēētopādes of Vēēshnōō Sārmā, in a Series of Connected Fables, interspersed with Moral, Prudential, and Political Maxims, tr. Charles Wilkins (Bath, 1787), Ch.2 Fable 1: "The story of the bull, the two jackals, and the lion." The quotation also appears in Thoreau's Literary Notebook in the Library of Congress, ed. Kenneth Walter Cameron (Hartford: Transcendental Books, 1964), p. 10.

166.11 "In the dry season: Thoreau's source for this quotation is "A Visit to the Indian Graves of Chiriqui,"

New York Daily Tribune, 29 September 1859, P.6, cols. 1-2.

166-13, "Guacas"; Emended from AM's and RP's "guacas" on authority of the source of the quotation and Thoreau's working draft in folder 20.

Additions to "Table of Textual Variants" (p.376):  
\*166.13-14 grave- / yards AM Y RP;  
Graveyards folder 20.

Addition to "Emendations of the Copy-Text" (p.3770;  
166.13 'Guacas') 'guacas' AM RP

Addition to "End-of-Line Hyphenation, List B" (p. 377):  
174.14 res-PRIVATA

University of Connecticut

ADDENDA TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1855-1895  
by Gary Scharnhorst

I wish to supplement the bibliographies of secondary comment about Thoreau with sixteen overlooked items from American periodicals during the period between 1855 and 1895. The following list contains a significant contemporary notice of the "Cape Cod" essays; an overlooked obituary; several reviews of "Thoreau's posthumously-published works, including three initialed by the suffragist Henry B. Blackwell; and a favorable reference to Walden by the Reverend W.R. Alger, best known today for an earlier denunciation of "the hermit of Concord."

1. "Pictor" (pseudo.). "Massachusetts/(Correspondence of the Evening Post)." New York Evening Post, 13 August 1855, 1:3.

A brief paragraph corroborates the claim, usually traced to F. B. Sanborn, that serialization of the "Cape Cod" essays in Putnam's was abruptly discontinued at least in part because Thoreau's tone irritated some residents of the region. The paragraph merits quotation in full: "Mr. Thoreau's Residents of Cape Cod, published in Putnam have given a good deal of offence to the people of that part of the country, who think that they are quite as high in the scale of civilization as their neighbors are. Their wild and solitary state is no hindrance to their advance in all the graces and refinements of life. Barnstable county has furnished its full share of the intellect of Massachusetts, and not a few of the best merchants of Boston are from that quarter. They are proud of their origin, and keep up their connection with their birthplace."

2. Joseph Palmer, M.D. "Association of the Alumni of Harvard College/Necrology of the Past Year." Boston Advertiser, 16 July 1862, 3:1-2.

Genealogical and biographical sketch of "David Henry Thoreau" approximately 750 words in length.

3. (Edmund H.) S(ears). Review of Excursions. Monthly Religious Magazine, 30 (December 1863), 346-347.  
The essays "will be read by those who love Nature, and desire to see her through the eyes of one specially anointed as her priest and prophet."

4. ANON. "Thoreau and 'The Maine Woods.'/The Attractions of Nature." New York Evening Post, 22 August 1864, 1:1-2.

Favorable notice of "Thoreau's last published work," which is "redolent of the genuine outdoor fragrance of the pine and freshness of the

mountain breeze." Includes excerpts totaling about 2500 words.

5. (Edmund H.) S(ears). Reveiw of Cape Cod. Monthly Religious Magazine, 33 (May 1865), 319-320.

The book "is thoroughly entertaining," though much of (Thoreau's) description is caricature."

6. ANON. Review of Cape Cod. Universalist Quarterly, 22 (July 1865), 399.

"...fresh, original, a mirror of the shifting sands of the Cape and restless waves of the ocean, in full sympathy with Nature in all her moods..."

7. (Rufus) E(ellis). Review of Letters to Various Persons. Monthly Religious Magazine, 34 (September 1865), 191.

Criticizes Thoreau for "his real or affected indifference" to the Civil War. The same issue of this magazine contains several excerpts from the book under the title "Random Readings."

8. ANON. Reviews of the A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, Walden, and The Maine Woods. Universalist Quarterly, 22 (October 1865), 530-531.

"...such books as these, bringing the reader into fellowship with Nature, are profitable every way," though many of Thoreau's observations "are shallow, egotistical, and impertinent."

9. ANON. Review of A Yankee in Canada. Universalist Quarterly, 23 (October 1866), 513.

Brief, favorable notice of the work.

10. ANON. "Thoreau's 'Yankee in Canada.'/A Characteristic Book--The Humors of Travel." New York Evening Post, 4 October 1866, 1:12.

"No man of his generation more entirely escaped from the thralldom of conventionalities, or lived out more truly and freely his own life." Excerpts about 800 words from the book.

11. (Rufus) E(ellis). Review of A Yankee in Canada. Monthly Religious Magazine, 36 (November 1866), 334-339.

"...pleasant and not uninstractive and always heightened."

12. ANON. Review of Thoreau the Poet-Naturalist by W. E. Channing, Boston Transcript, 7 October 1863, 6:1.

"...a book readable as much for its quaint biographer as for its curious bits of biography."

13. H(enry) B. B(lackwell). Review of Summer. Boston Woman's Journal, 26 July 1884, p. 244.

"...a delightful book for quiet reading in the open air during summer vacation."

14. William Rounseville Alger. "Everyday Philosophy." Boston Transcript, 6 August 1892, 4:4.  
Commends Thoreau's description of the "battle of the ants" in Walden.

15. H(enry) B. B(lackwell). Review of Autumn. Boston Woman's Journal, 24 September 1892, P. 309.

A work to be "welcomed by all the lovers of (Thoreau's) unique and genuine genius."

16. H(enry) B. B(lackwell). Review of Familiar Letters of David Thoreau. Boston Woman's Journal, 6 July 1895, p. 211.

"...a delightful book..."

University of Texas at Dallas



SINCLAIR LEWIS' COPY OF WALDEN  
by Julian Mason

The most recent catalogue from Serendipity Books of Berkeley, CA (#43, July 1985) offers for sale Sinclair Lewis' copy of Walden (item 345, \$900). It is an 1899 edition published by Crowell in the Handy Volume Classics series, with introduction by Charles G.D. Roberts.

The catalogue entry is quite informative, pointing out that the volume contains:

(Lewis') signature in ink on the front endpaper, his marginal notes in pencil throughout, three pencilled notes by him, one on the great teachers of vegetarianism, another on sexual continence (over 50 words, in the margins opposite Thoreau's treatments of these subjects), and this interesting declaration on the front pastedown: "NY. Aug '07 / Read in noon hours of freedom from the semi-bondage of 'Tales'; on benches in Bryant Park; my Walden 2 feet of bench, my pond a drinking fountain, my forest a few elms and maples, where sparrows twittered. S.L."

The entry goes on to cite various sections of Mark Schorer's biography of Lewis concerning his reading of Walden and his claim for its influence on him:

Time and again in later life, Sinclair Lewis claimed that Thoreau had been of all writers and thinkers "the major influence on his own work" (Mark Schorer, SINCLAIR LEWIS: AN AMERICAN LIFE, pp. 769, 811, et passim.) The present copy clears up a small mystery, as to just when Lewis read WALDEN. Under "1902," when Lewis was in high school and discussing in his recently-begun diary all the books he was reading, Schorer remarks: "It is surprising that he never mentions either Thoreau or WALDEN, for in adult life,, again, he claimed for WALDEN a strong, formative influence." Schorer then quotes an adult Lewis looking back on his Minnesota boy-hood - "there was no book which had for me a more peculiar and literal enchantment than WALDEN" - and comments: "One must wonder whether . . . he was not imposing on the Minnesota years a maturity of taste and judgment that came only later." And under "1904," with Lewis in college and on a visit to Boston and Cambridge, Schorer tells us that Lewis "mentioned most of the great New England writers in his diary during these days, and read about a number of them, but again, there is no mention either of Thoreau or WALDEN, and no thought of a trip to Concord." Actually, Schorer never does discover when Lewis first read WALDEN. And although we do not know that either, at least not for a certainty, it is certain that in August 1907, while living in New York and turning out one Transatlantic Tales, Sinclair Lewis would snatch the noon hours for reading what soon came to be the book with the greatest influence on his own writings

Apparently, in Bryant Park Lewis was trying to follow Thoreau's admonitions that "each one be very careful to find out and pursue his own way" (Walden, Princeton, p. 71) and "However mean your life is, meet and live it" (P. 328). Unfortunately, Lewis, Bryant, and even Thoreau would find it much more difficult to follow these in the Bryant Park of today.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

UNDULATIONS OF WALDEN POND  
by Edward C. Jacobs

Thoreau, remarking in "The Pond in Winter" about the impossibility of accurately surveying on ice, puts forth a striking geological insight that anticipates by over fifty years a key idea associated with the Continental Drift theory of the early twentieth century, and later with the Plate Tectonics theory of the 1960's. Thoreau's idea deals with the undulation of the earth's crust:

While I was surveying, the ice, which was sixteen inches thick, undulated, under a slight wind like water. It is well known that a level cannot be used on ice. At one rod from the shore its greatest fluctuation, when observed by means of a level on land directed toward a graduated staff on the ice, was three quarters of an inch, though the ice appeared firmly attached to the shore. It was probably greater in the middle. Who knows but if our instruments were delicate enough we might detect an undulation in the crust of the earth? (Harding 221; italics mine)

That the earth's upper crust, the lithosphere, does in fact undulate, in a fashion, like ice upon water, is a concept central to A/ Wegener's theory of Continental Drift. This theory posits the existence of a supercontinent during the Paleozoic Age [called Pangea which eventually fragmented during the Mesozoic Age] into the smaller continents known today. Briefly put, these continental and oceanic masses "ride piggyback on the . . . outer, cooler lithosphere. Great fragments, or plates, of the lithosphere appear to jostle and move over the softer, perhaps incipiently melted upper mantle of the Earth. A crude analogy is that of the movements of great plates of Arctic and Antarctic ice in response to the currents in the underlying ocean" (Lapedes 116). "Crude analogy" notwithstanding, the simile very clearly describes the same phenomenon of the undulation of the earth's crust that Thoreau speculated upon while surveying on Walden.

The strongest support for the Continental Drift theory, once hotly debated, lies in the more recent and continuing geophysical investigations since the 1960's called Plate Tectonics. Similar to Continental Drift, Plate Tectonics posits "a simple model of the Earth in which a rigid outer shell 50-150km thick, the lithosphere . . . lie(s) above a hotter, weaker semiplastic asthenosphere . . . extend(ing) . . . to a depth of 700km." The lithosphere is composed of a small number of large "rigid plates," which, as they move over the earth's surface, "grind and scrape against each other as they move independently like rafts of ice on water" (Lapedes 650). Were we to revise somewhat the wording of this analogy to read ". . . like rafts of ice on Walden Pond," we would not be distorting the import of the idea: the earth's crust of

lithospheric plates does indeed undulate much as Thoreau speculated many years ago.

#### Works Cited

Harding, Walter, ed. The Variorum Walden: Henry David Thoreau. New York: Washington Square Press, 1963.

Lapedes, D.N., ed. McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of the Geological Sciences. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1978.

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#### NOTES AND QUERIES

Our apologies to Jack Schwartzman for inadvertently dropping his name as author of the eulogy of his dear friend Leonard Kleinfeld in the summer bulletin and to Martin Doudna for misspelling his name on the article "Psychoanalyzing Henry: An Interview" in the spring bulletin.

A great deal of excitement has been aroused in Concord this summer by the discovery of Thoreau's long missing flute book (in which he pressed many of his wildflowers) by Mark Wright, a New Jersey high school teacher and a member of the N.E.H. 1985 summer seminar in Concord, in the attic of Orchard House. It is now being transferred to the Concord Free Public Library for safe keeping.

According to the CONCORD JOURNAL for Aug. 15, 1985 there was an attempted rape at Walden Pond in early August.

According to the CONCORD JOURNAL for Aug. 29, 1985, the selectmen of Lincoln, Mass., have postponed a decision to reroute Route 126 further back from Walden Pond.

Hedwig Deuschle has presented a copy of her undergraduate independent study thesis on "The Secular Gospel in Literature and in the Science of Man according to Thoreau, Whitman, and Fromm" at the College of the Virgin Islands (1976) to the Thoreau Society Archives.

The Thoreau Society received a thousand dollars from the estate of the late Awona Wilona Harrington of San Diego, Calif.

According to the BOSTON GLOBE for June 16, 1985, Roberta Rubini Atti and David Robinson were recently married at the cairn site at Walden Pond.

Hallmark now issues a greeting card with the words "It is only by forgetting yourself that you draw near to God.--Thoreau."

The elementary school in Kirkland, Wash., is named "the Henry David Thoreau School" and its official mascot is the underfrog.

NEW ENGLAND COUNTRY ANTIQUES for May 1985 featured a reproduction of the Dunshee Ambrotype of Thoreau and asked who could identify it.

John Graves, in GOODBYE TO A RIVER (Knopf, 1961), a book about the Brazos River in Texas, refers regularly to "Saint Henry David Thoreau."

The CHICAGO TRIBUNE for April 1, 1985 (Note the date!) claims that Rock stars Madonna and Prince have been offered major roles in a pilot for a TV sitcom loosely based on Henry David Thoreau's WALDEN. We hope very loosely.

Margaret Neussendorfer tells us that in a letter of June 13, 1866 to Annie Fields now in the Boston Public Library (Ms.C.1.11 (100)) Sophia Hawthorne mentions her desire to buy or hire for her brother Nathaniel the house near the Railroad Station built by Henry Thoreau's father. She says it stands on a good acre of land with twenty-five apple trees and was lived in by the family and sold a while ago to a young Irishman by Mrs. Thoreau.

The title of the title story of Joanna Russ's THE ZANZIBAR CAT (1983) is taken from the last chapter of WALDEN.

A new adult condominium community in Reston, Va. is named "Thoreau Place."

John Jakes in his 1982 novel NORTH AND SOUTH (Harcourt, 1982) speaks of Thoreau as "a radical ... woodland anchorite" and quotes a line from WALDEN.

Bernardo Kuhn, 3271 Hagdeburgerforth, Forster 6, DDR/Gdr, Poland, would be interested in corresponding with any Americans on Thoreau. He is 25 and writes fluent English.

A lead pencil label on exhibit recently at the Houghton Library at Harvard University reads, "J. Thoreau & Co's best quality lead pencils, for drawing or writing, and all the purposes required of a good pencil. Concord, Mass."

COLLECTOR'S CORNER: M & S Rare Books, Weston, Mass. 02193, is offering for sale thirty pages of miscellaneous Thoreau manuscripts for \$62,500. It contains material from A WEEK, MAINE WOODS, and the journal. . . . The Rare Book Room, 125 Greenwich Ave., NYC 10014, offers a one-inch tintype of Thoreau for \$450.

Jose Buscaglia, former artist in residence at the Concord-Carlisle High School, has contributed to the school a mural of Thoreau, Emerson and Louisa May Alcott.

"Thoreau Waiting for the River Ice to Break," an etching by Joel Beckwith, has been issued by the Concord Art Association in an edition of one hundred copies.

John Nickols of Concord tells us that the late Lawrence A. Murray, a Concord land surveyor, told him that he often had to check many of Thoreau's Concord surveys in order to tie in his work with that of Thoreau and that he always found them to be "exceptionally accurate."

Commemorative bricks now pave Winthrop Lane in downtown Boston, honoring prominent "Bostonians." Included is one for Thoreau!

A feature program on Thoreau, entitled "The Green Henry" was broadcast on West German TV on Feb. 4, 1985.

Five nuclear protesters on trial in Providence, R.I. for damaging missile tubes quoted Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" in their defense according to the August 15, 1985 PROVIDENCE JOURNAL BULLETIN.